Elliott State Forest

Click here for a map.

My original page on The Elliott included a lengthy description of the State Land Board's decision to sell it. As they have rescinded that decision, I have removed it.

OR: South Coast Region, Douglas County, Coast Range, Elliott State Forest, Northeast Quadrant, Cougar Pass Area, Wide views over clear cuts from FS 7000 (the northern mainline) at Cougar Pass [Ask for #274.515.]

The Elliott State Forest occupies 144 square miles of steep, second growth land between Coos Bay and Reedsport. Like much of the Coast Range it features slopes in excess of 70% covered in forests, mostly Douglas Fir mixed with red alder, western red cedar, maple, and western hemlock. Although these mountains are steep they are not particularly high, with ridge tops running consistently above 1,000 feet but never quite reaching 2,000. Clearcuts are fairly common, although lawsuits have limited them in recent years.

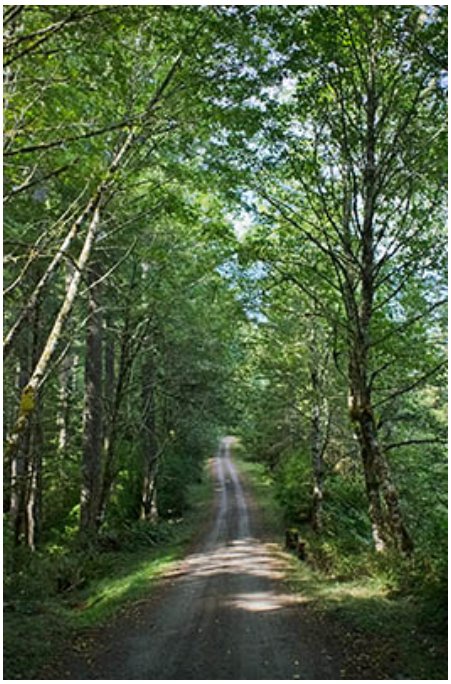
These aren't old forests. A 2003 state hydrologic study found only 189 acres greater than 200 years old, two-tenths of one percent of the forest. Less than half of the forest is as much as a century old. There's a reason for this; in the 1860s and 70s, long before logging took place, virtually the entire Elliott burned down, scorched to the soil. So what you see today are healthy young forests made up of same-age stands.

In 1927 the Siuslaw National Forest traded what was then known as the Millicoma Tract to Oregon's Department of Forestry in exchange for a similar acreage in small, scattered tracts within the Siuslaw. Because the lands Oregon used in the trade were part of the Common School Fund, a portfolio of lands established in 1859 to fund public schools, the new state forest became part of that fund. When the Department of Forestry's founding Forester, Francis Elliott, died in 1930 the state changed the name of the Millicoma Tract to Elliott State Forest.

Like most of the Coast Range, Elliott State Forest looks like a mad jumble of ridges and streams. It's not; there's a sensible organization to it. The Elliott consists of the watershed of the 35 mile long West Fork Millicoma River, along with its surrounding ridgeline and the ridges that radiate away from it into the adjacent watersheds. This watershed ridgeline forms a great oval at the center of the forest, and is followed virtually in its entirety by fairly good gravel roads.

OR: South Coast Region, Coos County, Coast Range, Elliott State Forest, The Ridgetop Drive, FR 1000, The forest road passes briefly through Weyerhaeuser's Millacoma Tree Farm, with views from a newly replanted clearcut [Ask for #274.A44.]

The Ridgetop Drive. This ridgetop drive — highlighted in green on the map below — is the heart of the forest, and everything radiates from it. This is the prime backroad drive in the forest, giving you a topside view of the entire tract. It also serves as the forest's mainline, and forestry activities tend to concentrate along it. Views from the tops of clearcuts can be very dramatic, and there are plenty of stretches through mature young forests that haven't seen an axe since the state took it over.



The Ridgetop Drive, FR 7000, follows the crest of Umpcoos Ridge [Ask for #274.A68.]

Here's a cliff view from the Ridgetop Drive at Cougar Pass, northward over the gorge formed by the Umpqua River. [Ask for

From this overlook on the Ridgetop Drive you can see the Pacific Ocean and the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. [Ask for #274.156.]

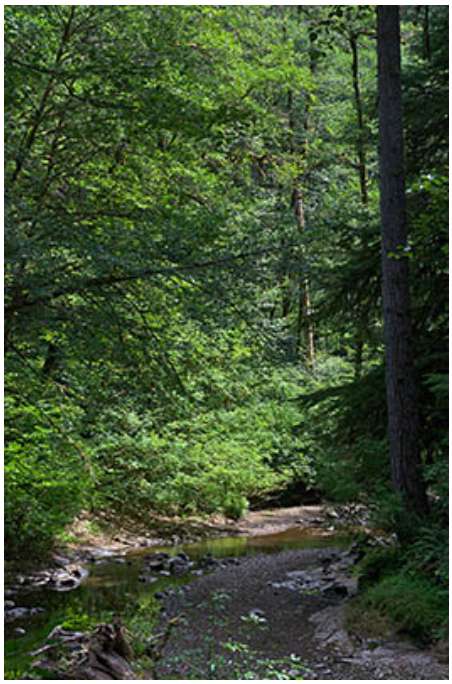
#274.505.]

Ridgetop Cross-Connectors. Two roads run through the area inside the ridgetop loop, offering cross access and (more importantly) access to the West Fork Millicoma River and its tributaries. The map above highlights them in blue. The southern one, FSR 2300, is short and good quality. The northern one, SFR 8000, gives good access to the Millicoma if approached from the west, but from there on is badly maintained and not suitable for an ordinary auto. It also has the more attractive scenery of the two.

Here's the good (western) segment of SFR 8000, passing through a grove of red alders. [Ask for #274.603.]

The West Fork Millicoma River viewed in the late summer dry season, from SFR 8000. [Ask for #274.600.]

SFR 2300, the better of the two cross-roads, passes through a handsome young forest. [Ask for #274.488.]



Outside Links. You can reach the ridgetop loop at any of six places, highlighted in brown on the map.

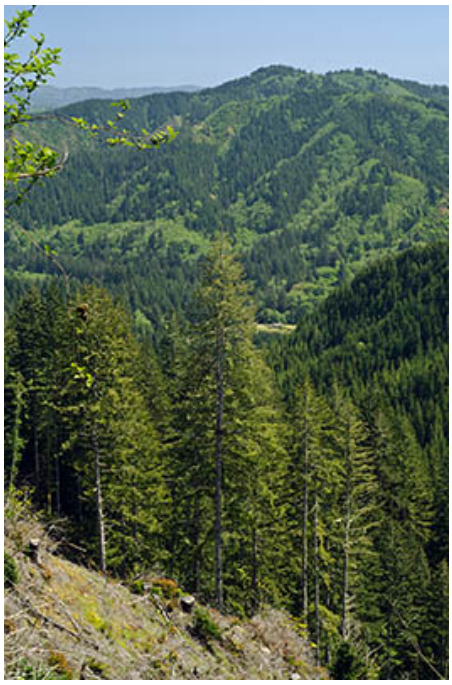
- Two are on the east, reached from Loon Lake Road.
- Three are on the west, reached from county roads off US 101.
- one is on the north, reached from State Highway 38.

The southwestern-most approach, SFR 3000, is the longest, best surfaced, and most dramatic, with both fine forests and wide clearcut views.

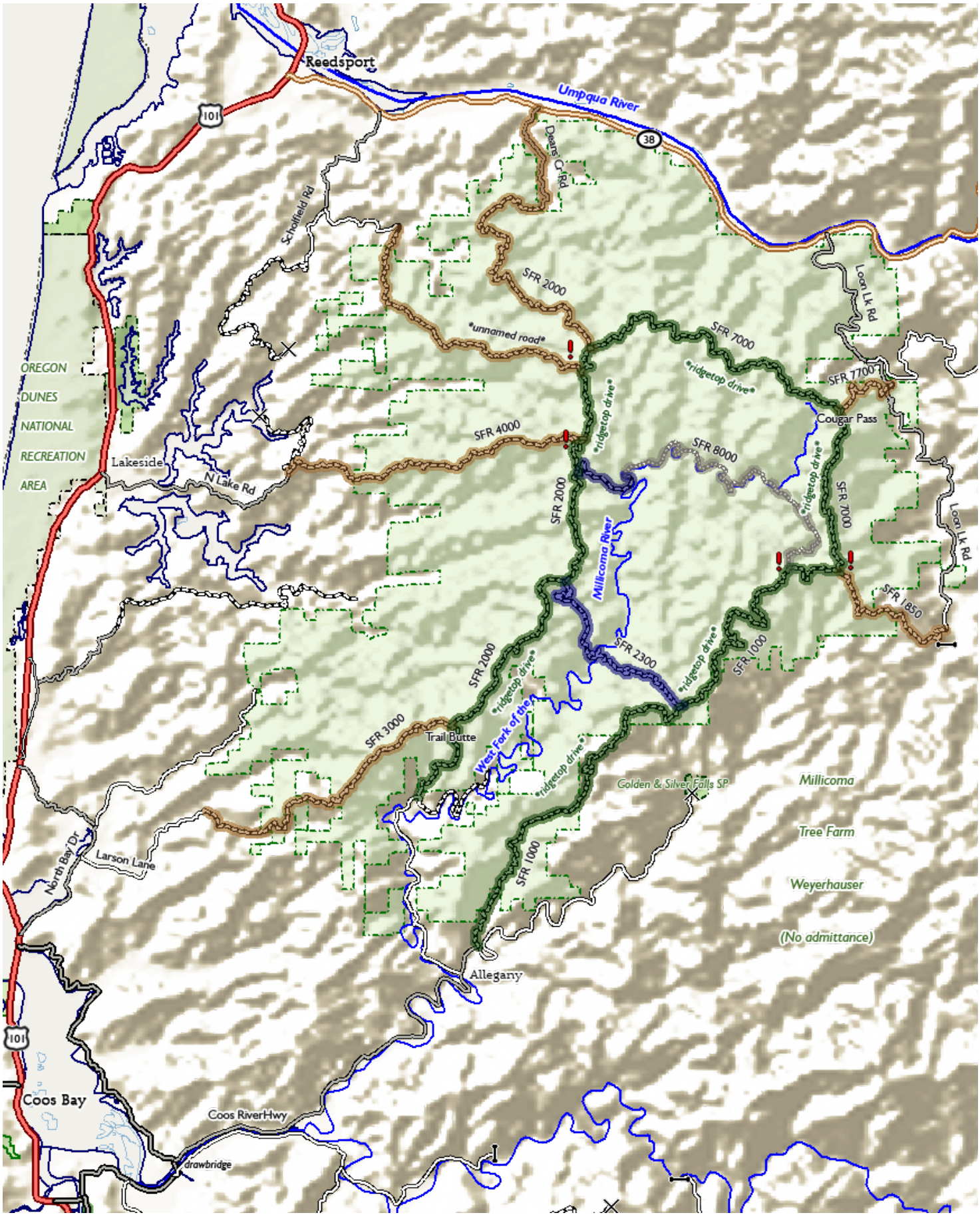
SFR 4000 links the state forest with the town of Lakeside. [Ask for #274.619.]

SFR 3000 gives access to the state forest from the Coos Bay area. Here it yields a wide view from a replanted clear cut. [Ask for #274.165.]

A handsome young fir forest on the steep slopes of the Umpqua River's gorge. This is taken from SFR 2000. [Ask for #274.624.]



Large Version of the Elliott State Forest Backroads Map


Reedsport
Umpqua River
101
38
Dean Creek Rd
Schofield Rd
SFR 2000
unnamed road
SFR 7000
ridgetop drive
SFR 7700
Loon Lk Rd
Cougar Pass
OREGON
DUNES
NATIONAL
RECREATION
AREA
Lakeside
N Lake Rd
SFR 4000
SFR 8000
SFR 2000
Millicoma River
SFR 1850
SFR 2300
SFR 1000
SFR 2000
SFR 3000
Trail Butte
West Fork of the
Golden & Silver Falls SP
Millicoma
Tree Farm
Weyerhauser
(No admittance)
North Bay Dr
Larson Lane
Allegany
Coos Bay
Coos River Hwy
drawbridge

All roads are gravel; expect to average 10-15 miles per hour. Exclamation points mark the most confusing forks.

Here are detailed descriptions of all the roads in The Elliott:

- **Ridgetop Scenic Loop:** Shown in green in the above map. This is 51 miles long on good gravel roads.
- **Cross-Connectors:** Shown in blue in the above map. These give access to the West Fork Millacoma River.
- **Outside Access:** Shown in brown in the above map. These let you reach the Ridgetop Scenic Loop from the outside world.

HOME: Home | UP: The Mountains | **HERE: The Elliott** | Elliott Ridgetop | Elliott-Millacoma Rvr | Elliott Link Roads

BlogPacifica.Com
Exploring the Pacific Coast
Coos Bay, OR
e-mail: jim@blogPacifica.com

Copyright ©2016, James A Hargan. All rights reserved.

All maps created using data from DeLorme Topo North America® v9.0, ©2010 DeLorme® (www.deLorme.com)
Contact the webmaster at maven@harganonline.com

Home About Us HarganOnline Site Map

The Elliott's Scenic Ridgetop Drive

Elliott State Forest's Ridgetop Drive in the Cougar Pass Area. Wide views from FS 7000 (the northern mainline) at Cougar Pass [Ask for #274.518.]

The Ridgetop Scenic Drive follows the mountains that surround the West Fork Millacoma River, circling through the heart of the Elliott State Forest. All together the complete circuit is 49 miles long, bracketing the rural community of Allegany. The loop is gravel throughout, and you should leave yourself plenty of time to complete it — at least three hours, plus another hour to get there and back from Coos Bay. I'll be describing it counter-clockwise, but the other direction works just as well.

A map is provided at the bottom of this page.

To start the Ridgetop Drive turn south of Coos Bay on US 101, then fork left at a traffic light with a signpost to Allegany. Continue to follow signs to Allegany as you cross the Coos River on a handsome old steel truss bridge, then follow it upstream on its right (northern) bank, then finally turning sharply northward to follow the Millacoma River — a very

The start of the Ridgetop Drive just past Allegany Community. This section is marked as both SFR 1000 (by the state) and Marlow Creek Road (by the county). [Ask for #274.A19.]

scenic drive in itself. When you pass a small country church at an intersection on your left you've reached Allegany Community. Your turn onto the Ridgetop Drive is just 3/4th of a mile further, on your left (shown opposite).When you are done you'll rejoin this road at the church.

Put your tripmeter on zero. I'll give you mileages for all all the turns, starting from here.

The Ridgetop Drive (SFR 1000) as it follows Marlow Creek, not far from its start in Allegany Community. [Ask for #274.A23.]

The road starts to climb out of Marlow Creek's ravine. [Ask for #274.A32.]

The Ridgetop Drive **ascends the ridge** by following Marlowe Creek. It spends its first five miles alongside the creek in an increasingly narrow ravine. At 5.0 miles it reaches the head of the valley and goes steeply uphill. Here it crosses into land owned by Weyerhaeuser as part of its mammoth Millacoma Tree Farm. At 170,000 acres the Millacoma is nearly double

the size of the Elliott, and except for this section of road is closed to the public. Not surprisingly these privately owned lands are heavily logged. The road tops out at 6.6 miles at an elevation of 1,400 feet, onto an unnamed ridge.

Large outcrops line the road as it reaches a clearcut in Weyerhauser's Millacoma Tree Farm and climbs towards the ridgetop. This marks the start of the Weyerhaeser property. [Ask for #274.A39.]

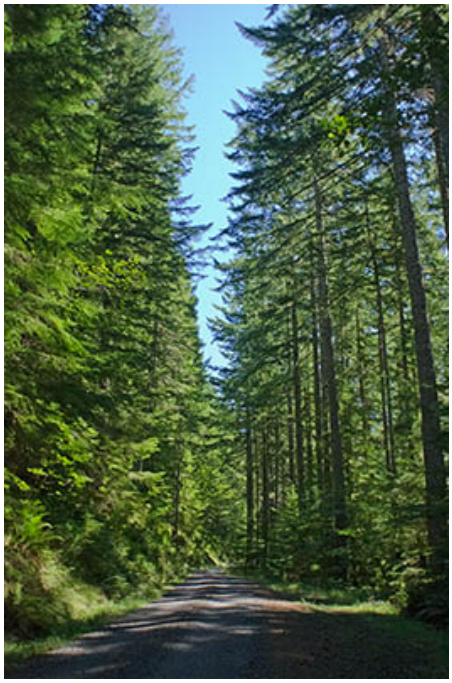
Vertical sandstone sheets form outcrops in a clearcut on Weyerhaeuser's Millacoma Tree Farm. The Ridgtop Drive (SFR 1000) is inside the Weyerhaeuser property at this point. [Ask for #274.594.]

The road runs along top of a clearcut as it passes through Weyerhaeuser's Millacoma Tree Farm. [Ask for #274.A44.]

The drive **re-enters the state forest at 7.1 miles**, and from here on forests predominate. The Elliott is a patchwork of single-age forests mixed with scattered recent clearcuts, with the oldest patches dating to an

1868 fire that burned out almost all of the area.

After going through a patch of 150 year old forest you'll briefly touch Weyerhaeuser land again at 9.0 miles. At 9.8 miles the important cross-connector SFR 2300 leads right to reach the West Fork Millacoma in 2.0 miles and rejoin the Ridgetop Drive in 5.2 miles, meeting it at its milepost 36.7. The intersection is signposted; the Ridgetop Drive go straight.



As the road emerges from Weyerhaeuser lands into the Elliott State Forest once again it passes through this handsome young fir forest [Ask for #274.A48.]

Intersection with SFR 2300, an important cross-connector; sign indicates that CB Channel 23 is monitored. [Ask for #274.A51.]

At 10.2 miles **the road passes through Weyerhaeuser lands one final time**, regaining the state forest at 11.1 miles. Here the road follows the top of a large clearcut with wide views over the heavily cut Millacoma Tree Farm.

At 16.4 miles the drive's other cross-connector, FSR 8000, heads off to the left. While the intersection is sign-posted it is easy to blunder down this side road by accident; be sure to turn right instead of heading straight. This side road is poorly maintained and is slated for abandonment. I cannot recommend it for passenger vehicles, although it is very scenic. If you do take it you'll reach the West Fork Millacoma River in 2.5 miles, follow it for five miles, and rejoin the Ridgetop Loop in 10.2 miles at its milepost 33.6.

A roadside view from the state forest over the adjacent 170,000 acre Millicoma Tree Farm. [Ask for #274.494.]

Another roadside view from a clearcut. [Ask for #274.490.]

This is what a state forest road sign looks like, in this case where SFR 1000 (Ridgetop Drive) intersects with FSR 8000, a cross-connector. Not all intersections are this well marked, or marked at all. [Ask for #274.597.]

Here the Ridgetop Drive (SFR 1000) uses rock cuts to run just underneath the ridge crest. [Ask for #274.A52.]

As the route approaches its eighteen mile mark it makes two confusing turns and changes its number. At 17.8 miles. at an unmarked intersection in a clearcut, the Ridgetop Drive turns abruptly left onto a side road while the main road heads right downhill to exit the forest. The Ridgetop Drive is still numbered FSR 1000 although you can't prove it by any signage, while the road out of the forest is FSR 1850.

If you are thinking about bailing be advised that you've already driven on the Ridgetop Drive's best quality roads, so now's your chance. If you go right you'll descend on an excellent gravel road to reach paved Loon Lake Road in 4.2 miles. From here it's 13.5 miles on a good (and scenic) county road to State Route 38, a major highway.

Back to the main route, at 18.2 miles (in another clearcut) the Ridgetop Drive forks left steeply uphill on another apparant side road, while what appears to be the main road goes left, leaving the forest on an excellent gravel road to emerge on Loon Lake Road. The Ridgetop Drive is now following SFR 7000.

Here's where the Ridgetop Drive swerves off left and uphill while changing its route from SFR 1000 to SFR 7000 at an unmarked intersection in a clearcut. [Ask for #274.A53.]

Just about any old car can make it along the Ridgetop Drive (SFR 7000 at this point), including my 2004 Grand Caravan (shown here). [Ask for #274.A54.]

You have now gained **the crest of Umpcoos Ridge**, separating the watersheds of the Umpqua River (to your right) and the Coos River (to your left — the Millacoma River is a tributary of the Coos). For the next 3.6 miles you'll be traveling due north through alternating forests and cuts. For the first mile you'll be in another stand of 150 year old trees, veterans of the 1868 fire. After that a clearcut on your right gives fine views over Loon Lake, formed around 700 AD when a large sandstone formation collapsed into Mill Creek. It's now home to a private resort and a large BLM recreation site.

Here the road runs through a Douglas Fir forest. [Ask for #274.608.]

View from the top of a clearcut eastward over the Loon Lake and Camp Creek areas [Ask for #274.A55.]

A clearcut view as the road follows the top of the Umpcoos Ridge northward. [Ask for #274.A58.]

At 21.8 miles you reach **Cougar Pass**, one of the few named passes in the forest. Here there's a confusing and unmarked intersection with FSR 7700 (another opportunity to bail) leading steeply downhill to Loon Lake Road. Go left. You'll see a prominant fire tower above you to your right. Unlike similarly closed fire towers in the national forests this one is not available a a vacation rental.

Beneath the tower on the north the uppermost reach of Double Barrel Creek has been completely and recently clear cut and replanted, giving panoramic views over an area rich in naturally exposed cliffs. Tree regrowth will likely block this view by 2020 or so. Here you'll find a second intersection with FSR 7700; go left, staying on SFR 7000. You are now heading westward, still on Umpcoos Ridge, and will continue to do so for the next 8.2 miles.

Cliffs emerge from fir forests as viewed from Cougar Pass. Here the Ridgetop Drive (still SFR 7000) turns westward, still following Umpcoos Ridge. [Ask for #274.505.]

A panoramic shot eastward from the Cougar Pass clearcut. [Ask for #274.513.]

Panoramic views from the clearcut continue to the north and west, as the Ridgetop Drive passes above it. [Ask for #274.518.]

The Umpcoos Ridge, separating the West Fork Millacoma River from the Umpqua River, becomes barely wide enough for the Ridgetop Drive to follow it. [Ask for #274.A68.]

Tall young trees on a steep slope. Just beyond here SFR 7000 ends at an intersection with SFR 2000; the Ridgetop Drive continues straight on SFR 2000. [Ask for #274.A69.]

This long westward stretch ends at 30.1 miles, at a Y-intersection with SFR 2000. The Ridgetop Drive

follows FSR 2000 to the left — its third and last number change. The right fork (also SFR 2000) drops to State road 38 at the Umpqua River, but was not particularly well maintained when inspected and cannot be recommended.

Another mile ahead an unnamed side road leads off to the right. When inspected this turned out to be a good quality road, probably because of active logging sites along it. It takes 7.1 miles to leave the forest and another two miles to reach a good county road (at which point you go left to reach State Road 38).

View from a clearcut along the Ridgetop Drive (now SFR 2000) showing it slabbing along a slope on the opposite side of a cutover valley. [Ask for #274.480.]

The Ridgetop Drive (SFR 2000) passes a survey tree with a sign indicating a timber sale boundary. [Ask for #274.A73.]

For **the final ten miles** you'll be heading south on SFR 2000 on an unnamed ridge. Scenery continues to alternate between clearcuts and forests, with most of the cuts on the east (left) giving views over the West Fork Millacoma River. There's one notable exception: a small outcrop at the end of this stretch (at Trail Butte) that gives wide views towards the Pacific Ocean.

You'll pass five intersections on this stretch.

- The **first intersection**, at 32.6 miles, is SFR 4000, another easy place to blunder down the wrong direction; the Ridgtop Drive, as usual, goes left. SFR 4000 is another connection to the outside world,

The Ridgetop Drive (still SFR 2000) makes its way along the ridge crest with rock cuts. This gives a good idea of what the road is like. [Ask for #274.473.]

good in quality although not remarkably scenic, leading 7.8 miles to a good paved road and another 5.3 miles to US 101 and the village of Lakeside, north of Coos Bay.

- The **second intersection** is SFR 4900 which simply heads a a mile or so back to SFR 4000. Short roads like this allow long lumber trucks to turn into the intersection no matter what way they are coming from.
- **The third intersection** is cross-connector SFR 8000, described above, at 33.6 miles,
- The **fourth** is the other cross-connector SFR 2300 at 36.7 miles, also described above.
- The **fifth** connector is FSR 3000, described next, at 41.5 miles.

Roadside view over the West Fork Millacoma River Valley [Ask for #274.A80.]

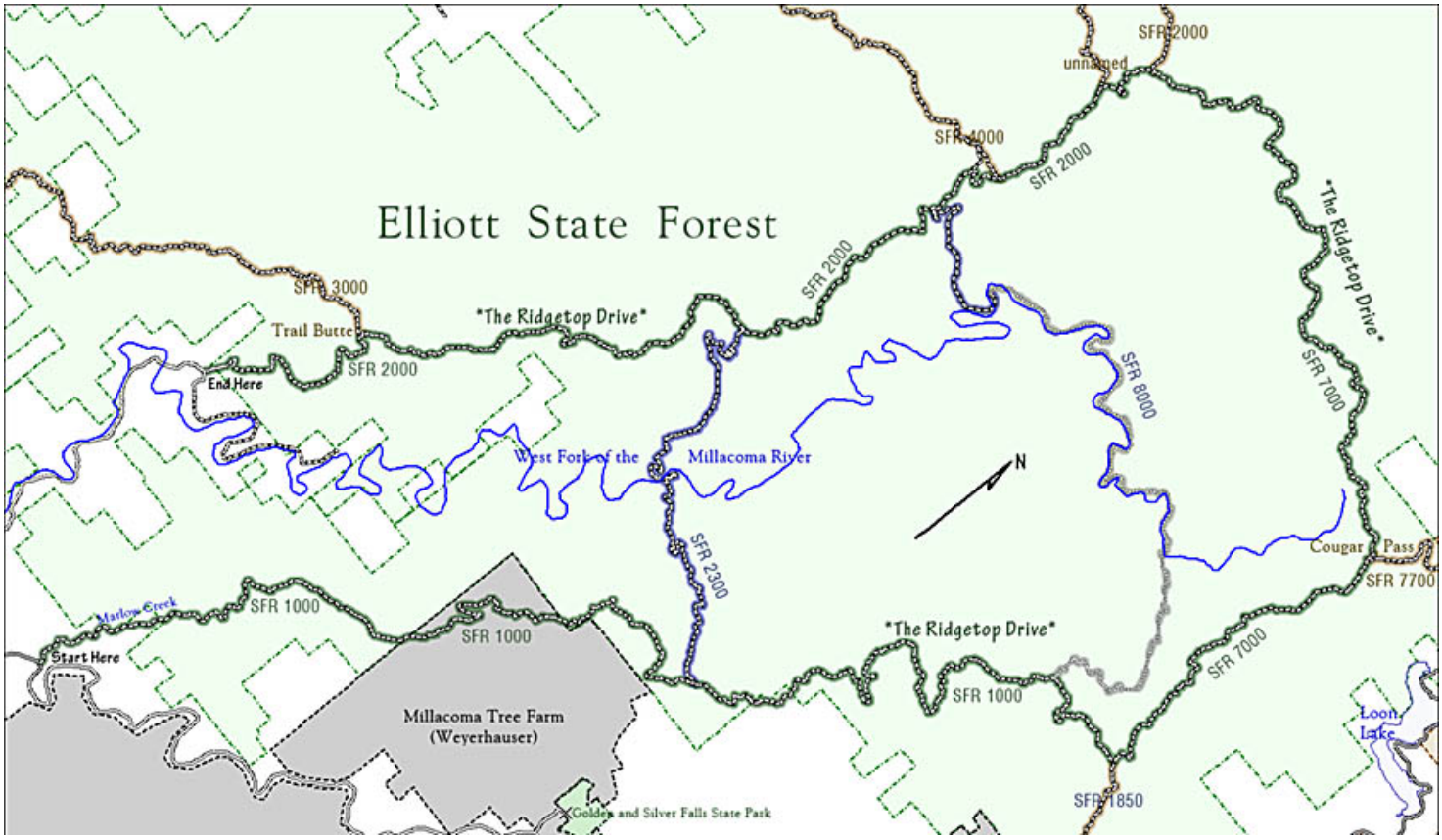
The **fifth and final intersection** is SFR 3000, an unmarked and confusing fork. To complete the Ridgetop Loop you go left, staying on SFR 1000. You'll reach paved county maintained West Fork Millacoma Road at 44.1 miles, and this takes you back to where you started at 49.3 miles.

The right fork (SFR 3000), however, is an excellent road and very scenic; it leaves the forest after 7.7 miles, reaching US 101 just north of Coos Bay in another 6.1 miles. Mostly it passes through very attractive forests, but there are a couple of good clearcut views south over the farmed valley of the West Fork Millacoma River. Once you reach the end of the forest road, return to US 101 north of Coos Bay by turning left at each of the three paved intersections.

This panoramic view towards Oregon Dunes NRA and the Pacific Ocean is from a small rock outcrop on SFR 3000 (Dean Mountain Road) a hundred feet or so from its intersection with the Ridgetop Drive (SFR 2000), at Trail Butte. [Ask for #274.158.]

The end of the Ridgetop Drive (SFR 2000) at the southern boundary of the state forest. [Ask for #274.A83.]

Here's what you'll see as you re-enter populated lands; note that the county calls FSR 2000 "Dean Mountain Road". [Ask for #274.A85.]



OR: South Coast Region, Coos County, Coast Range, Elliott State Forest, Elliott State Forest's Ridgetop Drive, in the Coast Range between Coos Bay and Reedsport. [Ask for #990.130.]

For a full-sized map of the entire Elliott State Forest and its surroundings,Click here.

HOME: Home | UP: The Elliott | **HERE: Elliott Ridgetop** | Elliott-Millacoma Rvr | Elliott Link Roads

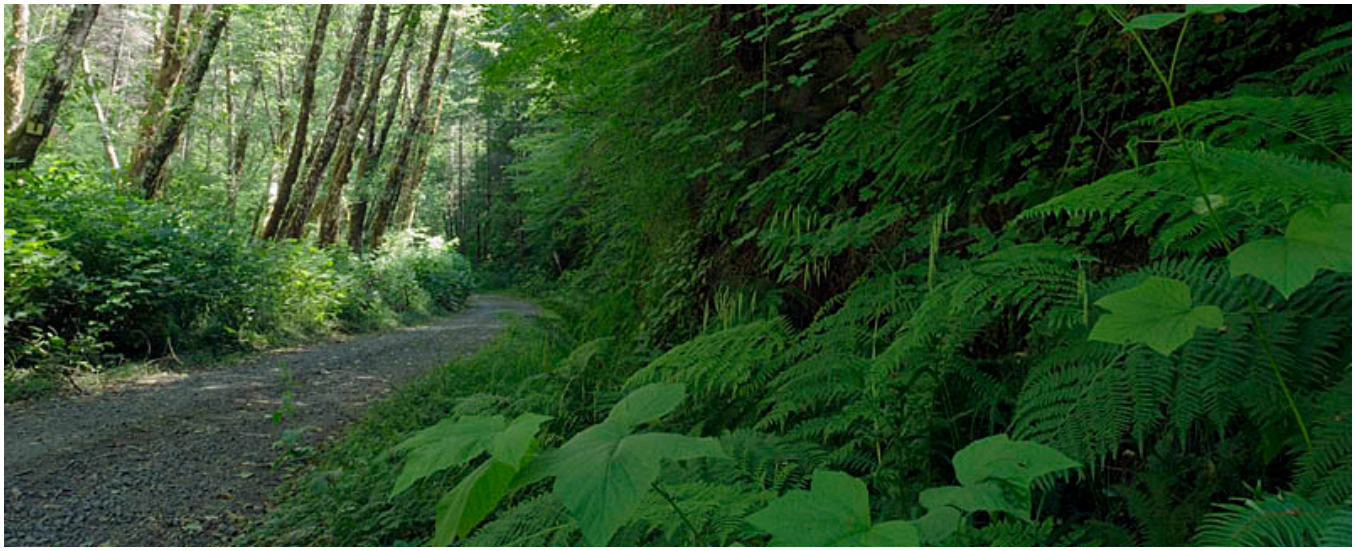
BlogPacifica.Com
Exploring the Pacific Coast
Coos Bay, OR
e-mail: jim@blogPacifica.com

Copyright ©2016, James A Hargan. All rights reserved.

All maps created using data from DeLorme Topo North America® v9.0, ©2010 DeLorme® (www.deLorme.com)
Contact the webmaster at maven@harganonline.com

Home About Us HarganOnline Site Map

Visiting the Elliott: The Millacoma River



In Oregon's Elliott State Forest, FR 2300 drops to the Millacoma River from the surrounding ridgetops.

These two roads cut across the great oval loop of the Ridgetop Scenic Drive, dropping down to the West Fork of the Millacoma River then climbing back up again to the opposite ridgeline. As you follow the Ridgetop Drive you'll reach SFR 2300 first, the less interesting but better maintained. Next comes SFR 8000, which despite its nice round number is not at all well kept but, with five miles of following the river, by far the more scenic. You'll find a good map at the bottom of the main Elliott Forest page,here.

FSR 2300

Millicoma River Area, SFR 2300. This gravel forest road descends from SFR 2000 (the Ridgetop Drive) towards the West Fork of the Millacoma River using rock cuts. [Ask for #274.485.]

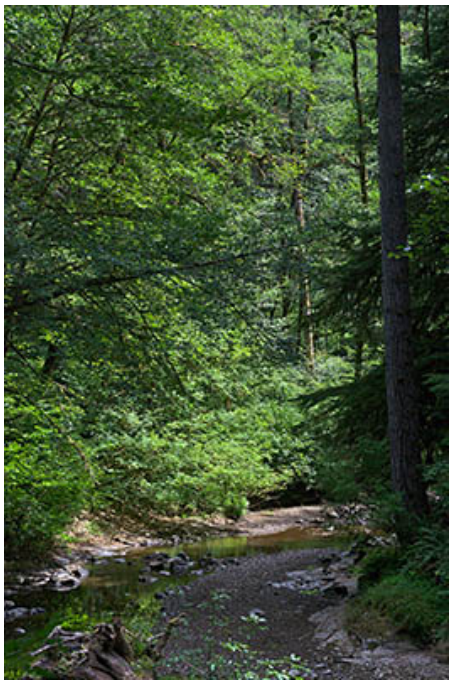
The road continues its drop to the West Fork of the Millacoma River. [Ask for #274.487.]

SFR 2300 runs through a handsome young forest as it follows the West Fork of the Millacoma River. [Ask for #274.488.]

SFR 8000

A bad but scenic section of SFR 8000. Most of the easternmost seven miles is this poor. I got my old minivan down it okay by driving really slowly. An SUV should do fine. [Ask for #274.599.]

View of the West Fork Millicoma River from FSR 8000. The road follows the river for five miles through a lovely riparian forest, with many places for fishermen to reach the river. It is, however, precisely this section that causes the State Forest Service to want to close this road. The road is said to interfere with fish breeding. [Ask for #274.600.]



As SFR 8000 leaves the Millacoma to climb up to the western leg of the Ridgetop Drive it passes through this grove of red alders. [Ask for #274.603.]

HOME: Home | UP: The Elliott | Elliott Ridgetop | **HERE: Elliott-Millacoma Rvr** | Elliott Link Roads

BlogPacifica.Com
Exploring the Pacific Coast
Coos Bay, OR
e-mail: jim@blogPacifica.com

Copyright ©2016, James A Hargan. All rights reserved.

All maps created using data from DeLorme Topo North America® v9.0, ©2010 DeLorme® (www.deLorme.com)
Contact the webmaster at maven@harganonline.com

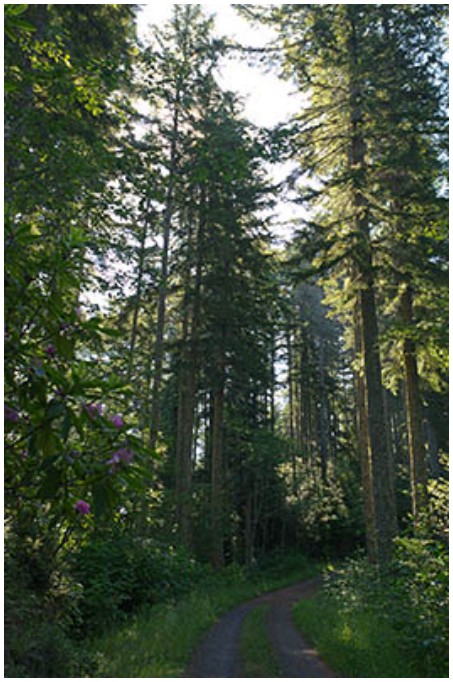
Home About Us HarganOnline Site Map

Visting The Elliott: Links with the Outside

View from FS 3000 in Oregon's Elliott State Forest, one of the forest's links to the outside world.

This final Elliott State Forest page surveys the roads which link the Elliott with the outside world. As usual I have inspected all of these myself in an ordinary family vehicle (a 2004 minivan) and have included only the ones that a reasonably experienced driver (unfazed by gravel surfaces, cliffs, and steep gradients) could handle — no need for high clearance or four-wheel drive. Roads that show no sign of regular maintenance (like the one on the right) are omitted. I should note that I haven't yet inspected three additional connectors and so have left them off the map.

A map at the bottom of this page shows these roads and their approaches.



SFR 3000

This is the handsomest of the connectors with lots of old forest and wide views, as well as the most convenient to Coos Bay. To find it go north on US 101 from Coos Bay, cross the spectacular McCullough Bridge, and take the second right onto North Bay Road. Go 2.3 miles to a right onto Larson Way, a paved county road, then go 3.8 miles to a right onto gravel SFR 3000. This immediately enters the state forest and becomes a good, wide gravel road that climbs steeply upward along a stream. It tops out in 3.0 miles to follow ridgelines the rest of the way in. Look for a great view over the Pacific Ocean to your left very near its terminus, 7.7 miles from where it entered the forest.

SFR 3000 ascends to the ridgeline through fir forests. [Ask for #274.159.]

Here SFR 3000 gives a wide view south over the settled lands around the lower reaches of the West Fork Millicoma River [Ask for #274.166.]

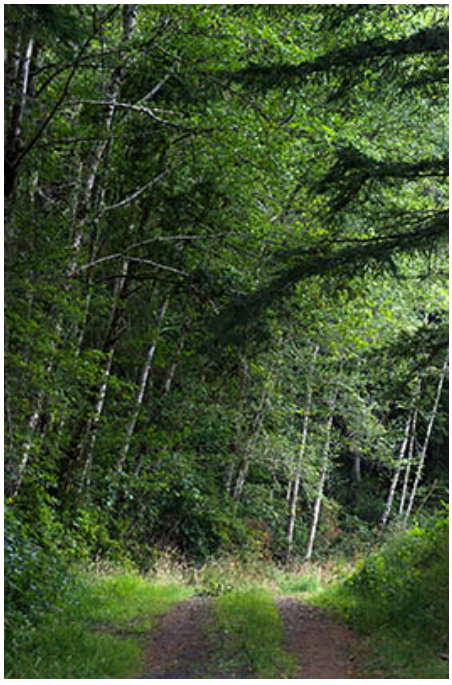
This roadside outcrop marks the point where there's a wide view east from SFR 3000 towards the Pacific Ocean and Oregon Dunes Nat Rec Area [Ask for #274.154.]

At its intersection with SFR 2000 (the Ridgetop Drive), SFR 3000 gives wide view east from Trail Butte towards the Pacific Ocean and Oregon Dunes Nat Rec Area [Ask for #274.157.]

SFR 4000

This good quality (although narrow) link road starts at the village of Lakeside; to get there take US 101 from the McCullough Bridge on the north end of Coos Bay for 10.6 miles to a right onto Airport Way, then go 0.6 miles to the T-intersection, then go one long block to the center of town. From Lakeside take North Lake Road left (east) for 4.3 miles to the end of the pavement; the right fork is SFR 4000. From here it's 7.8 miles of good but narrow gravel road through young forest. The first mile or two was sold to a logging company in 2014.

A typical stretch of SFR 4000, not far east of the recently sold area. [Ask for #274.619.]



An old track leads into the forests along the road. [Ask for #274.620.]

Umpcoos Rd? SFR 5000?

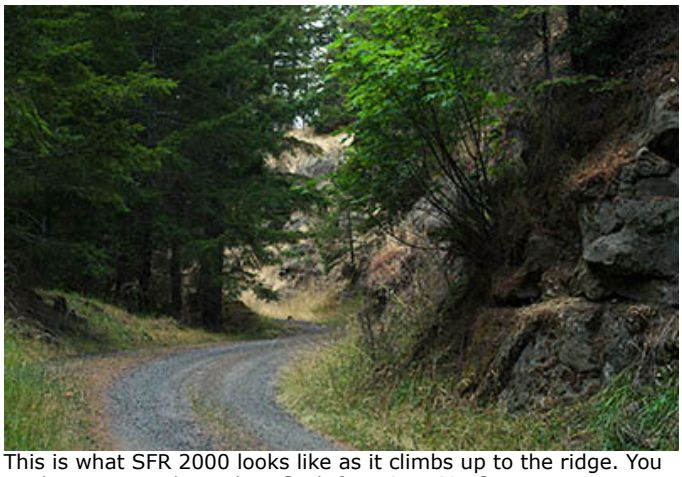
I mark this one "Unnamed Road" on my map as the latest official map doesn't show it, much less name it, but Google calls it "Umpcoos Rd" and Mapnik calls it "5000 Rd". It's an excellent gravel road, full width, with active logging projects along it. To find it take State Highway 38 east of Reedsport for 2.2 miles to a right turn onto paved Scholfield Rd, then go 3.1 miles to a right turn onto narrow gravel Scholfield Ridge Rd., an attractive little farm track. The state forest road starts 2.2 miles further on, a right turn over a creek.

This farmhouse marks the beginning of this link road at the point where it meets Scholfield Ridge Road. [Ask for #274.520.]

This link road passes by several active logging areas, including this one at its eastern terminus. [Ask for #274.A72.]

SFR 2000

While most of SFR 2000 makes up the end of the Ridgetop Drive, its northernmost section leaves the ridgeline to drop down to State Highway 38 and the Umpqua River. The road quality isn't very good (the photos show you what it's like) but it makes up for it by passing through some of the oldest forests in the Elliott, forests that haven't been cut since the devastating 1868 fire. To find it take OR 38 east of Reedsport for 5.8 miles to a right onto paved Deans Creek Road, then take this straight ahead to the end of the pavement in 2.6 miles. SFR 2000 forks off to the right, uphill and into the forest.



This is what SFR 2000 looks like as it climbs up to the ridge. You might want to take it slow. [Ask for #274.627.]

The road passes through a grove of red alders, the most common hardwood in the Coast Range. Note the grass growing in the middle, a sign of light use and little maintenance. [Ask for #274.626.]

Looking straight out through an old fir forest. [Ask for #274.623.]

SFR 7700

This leg, just 2.2 miles long, manages to climb 1,400 feet for an *average* gradient of 12%, the steepest you'll find in these pages. It starts just north of Loon Lake and joins the Ridgetop Drive at Cougar Pass. To find it, take OR 38 east from Reedsport for 13.1 miles to a right turn onto Loon Lake Road (which emerges impressively from a rock-bound canyon), then go 5.9 miles to a right, steeply uphill, onto SFR 7700. It will remain narrow as it switchbacks up the mountainside to crest out above a large sandstone cliff at 1.6 miles. Here it levels and follows the top of a new clearcut that gives numerous panoramic views for the next 0.75 miles. You'll meet the Ridgetop Drive (SFR 7000) about a half-mile along the clearcut. You'll have noticed the historic Cougar Pass Fire Tower on the ridge crest to your left; the gated track to the fire tower (a quarter-mile walk) is to your left down FSR 7000 a short distance.

The road reaches the ridgeline at these cliffs. [Ask for #274.505.]

The roadside view northward across the Umpqua Valley shows more red cliffs [Ask for #274.498.]

Another view from the long clearcut at the western end of the road. [Ask for #274.509.]

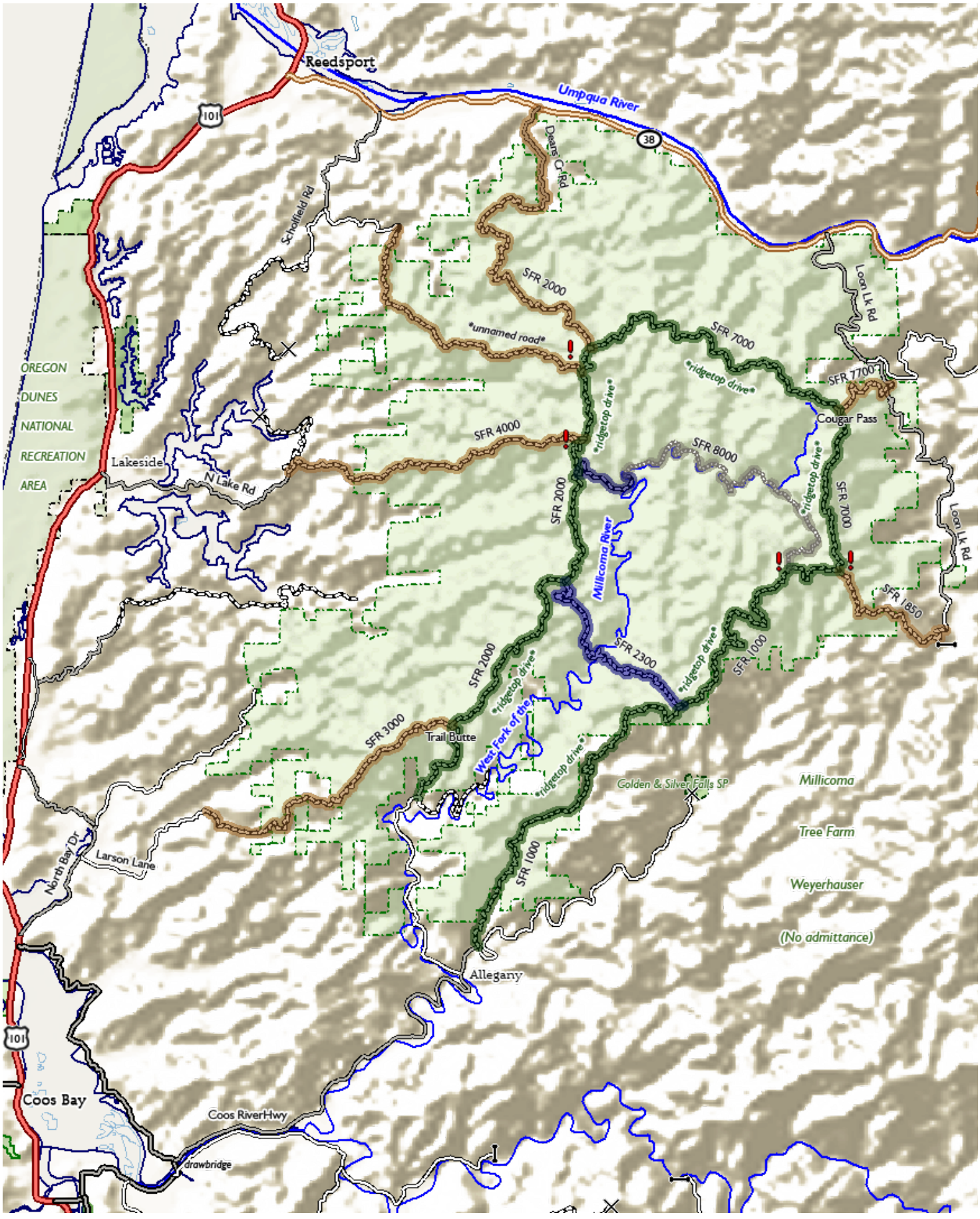
A view back towards SFR 7700 shows it running along the clearcut. [Ask for #274.513.]

SFR 1850 (Loon Lake Road)

From the 1930s to the 1950s Loon Lake Road ran south, marked as a state highway, to pass through Allegany and eventually reach Coos Bay. In 1957, however, a landslide wiped out its most remote section and was never rebuilt. Somewhere along the line Weyerhaeuser gained control of the ruinous road and the old right-of-way is now off limits. Today Loon Lake Road swerves into the Elliott, becoming SFR 1850.

To find it proceed as with SFR 7700 (above), but keep going to the end of paved Loon Lake Road, a total of 13.5 miles from its intersection with OR 38. Go right over the bridge onto gravel SFR 1850. This will continue as a very high quality gravel road for the next 4.2 miles, intersection with the Ridgetop Drive (here FSR 1000). Scenery is unimpressive; the first 2.4 miles are on private land and is mainly clear cut.

Most of FSR 1850 passes through clear cut private lands, such as this stretch. [Ask for #274.496.]


Reedsport
Umpqua River
101
38
Dean Creek Rd
Schofield Rd
SFR 2000
unnamed road
SFR 7000
ridgetop drive
SFR 7700
Loon Lk Rd
Cougar Pass
OREGON
DUNES
NATIONAL
RECREATION
AREA
Lakeside
N Lake Rd
SFR 4000
SFR 8000
SFR 2000
Millicoma River
SFR 1850
SFR 2300
SFR 1000
SFR 2000
SFR 3000
Trail Butte
West Fork of the
Golden & Silver Falls SP
Millicoma
Tree Farm
Weyerhauser
(No admittance)
North Bay Dr
Larson Lane
SFR 1000
Allegany
Coos Bay
Coos RiverHwy
drawbridge

OR: South Coast Region, Coos County, Coast Range, Elliott State Forest, Roads of the Elliott State Forest, in the Coast Range between Coos Bay and Reedsport. [Ask for #990.129.]

HOME: Home | UP: The Elliott | Elliott Ridgetop | Elliott-Millacoma Rvr | **HERE: Elliott Link Roads**

BlogPacifica.Com
Exploring the Pacific Coast
Coos Bay, OR
e-mail: jim@blogPacifica.com

Copyright ©2016, James A Hargan. All rights reserved.

All maps created using data from DeLorme Topo North America® v9.0, ©2010 DeLorme® (www.deLorme.com)
Contact the webmaster at maven@harganonline.com

Home About Us HarganOnline Site Map